

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The Assignee submits below a complete listing of the current claims, including marked-up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of evaluating grammars associated with a voice portal on a portal server, said method comprising:

generating, for a current grammar of the voice portal representing a valid input for a first menu of the voice portal, a test input, the test input for the current grammar including a test pattern;

providing the test input to the voice portal on the portal server using a voice server;

receiving at least one measure of how distinguishable the current grammar is from other grammars of a set of active grammars that are active when the current grammar is active, the set of active grammars including the current grammar and at least one grammar from a second menu of the voice portal, the at least one measure based at least in part on analysis of the test pattern with respect to the set of active grammars, the at least one measure comprising at least one measure of how distinguishable the current grammar is from the at least one grammar from the second menu of the voice portal; and

determining, based at least in part on the at least one measure, whether to modify the current grammar based at least in part on the at least one measure from the first menu to be distinguishable from the at least one grammar from the second menu.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one measure of how distinguishable the current grammar is from other grammars of the set of active grammars includes a confidence level and a set of n-best results for the test input, and wherein the method further comprises comparing the confidence level and set of n-best results for the test input with an expected value to assess the at least one measure of how distinguishable the current grammar is from other grammars of the set of active grammars.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying the current grammar to create a modified grammar if the at least one measure indicates that the current grammar is not sufficiently distinguishable from the other grammars of the set of active grammars.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

(i) generating a test input for the modified grammar, the test input including a test pattern for the modified grammar;

(ii) providing the test input for the modified grammar to the voice portal on the portal server using the voice server;

(iii) receiving at least one measure of how distinguishable the modified grammar is from other grammars of a set of active grammars that are active when the modified grammar is active, the modified grammar being one grammar of the set of active grammars that are active when the modified grammar is active; and

(iv) modifying the modified grammar and repeating steps (i) through (iii) until the at least one measure of how distinguishable the modified grammar is from other grammars of the set of active grammars that are active when the modified grammar is active indicates that the modified grammar is sufficiently distinguishable from the other grammars of the set of active grammars that are active when the modified grammar is active.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying the test pattern to emulate one or more user voices prior to providing the test input to the voice portal.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising modifying the test pattern to emulate the influence of one or more communications network qualities prior to providing the test input to the voice portal.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of evaluating grammars associated with a voice portal, the method comprising:

generating, for a current grammar of the voice portal representing a valid input for a first menu of the voice portal, a test input, the test input for the current grammar including a test pattern; providing the test input to the voice portal;

receiving at least one measure of how distinguishable the current grammar is from other grammars of a set of active grammars that are active when the current grammar is active, the set of active grammars including the current grammar and at least one grammar from a second menu of the voice portal, the at least one measure based at least in part on analysis of the test pattern with respect to the set of active grammars, the at least one measure comprising at least one measure of how distinguishable the current grammar is from the at least one grammar from the second menu of the voice portal; and

determining, based at least in part on the at least one measure, whether to modify the current grammar based at least in part on the at least one measure from the first menu to be distinguishable from the at least one grammar from the second menu.

8. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the at least one measure of how distinguishable the current grammar is from other grammars of the set of active grammars includes a confidence level and a set of n-best results for the test input, and wherein the method further comprises comparing the confidence level and set of n-best results for the test input with an expected value to assess the at least one measure of how distinguishable the current grammar is from other grammars of the set of active grammars.

9. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises modifying the current grammar to create a modified grammar if the at least one measure indicates that the current grammar is not sufficiently distinguishable from the other grammars of the set of active grammars.

10. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein the method further comprises:

- (i) generating a test input for the modified grammar, the test input including a test pattern for the modified grammar;
- (ii) providing the test input for the modified grammar to the voice portal;
- (iii) receiving at least one measure of how distinguishable the modified grammar is from other grammars of a set of active grammars that are active when the modified grammar is active, the modified grammar being one grammar of the set of active grammars that are active when the modified grammar is active; and
- (iv) modifying the modified grammar and repeating steps (i) through (iii) until the at least one measure of how distinguishable the modified grammar is from other grammars of the set of active grammars that are active when the modified grammar is active indicates that the modified grammar is sufficiently distinguishable from the other grammars of the set of active grammars that are active when the modified grammar is active.

11. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises modifying the test pattern to emulate one or more user voices prior to providing the test input to the voice portal.

12. (Previously presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises modifying the test pattern to emulate the influence of one or more communications network qualities prior to providing the test input to the voice portal.

13. (Currently amended) A system for evaluating grammars of a voice portal executing on a portal server, the system comprising:

an analysis interface ~~for extracting to extract~~ a current grammar from a set of active grammars of the voice portal, the current grammar representing a valid input for a first menu of the voice portal and being one grammar of the set of active grammars, the set of active grammars including at least one grammar from a second menu of the voice portal;

a test pattern generator for generating to generate a test input for the current grammar, the test input including a test pattern;

a text-to-speech engine on a computer for entering to enter the test input into the voice portal;

a results collector for analyzing to analyze the test input entered into the voice portal against the set of active grammars; and

a results analyzer for deriving to derive a set of statistics indicative of how distinguishable the current grammar is from other grammars of the set of active grammars, the set of statistics being indicative of how distinguishable the current grammar is from the at least one grammar from the second menu of the voice portal, and to determine, based at least in part on the at least one measure, whether to modify the current grammar from the first menu to be distinguishable from the at least one grammar from the second menu.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the set of statistics includes a confidence level and a set of n-best results for the test input, and wherein the results analyzer is configured to compare the confidence level and set of n-best results for the test input with an expected value to assess how distinguishable the current grammar is from other grammars of the set of active grammars.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the test pattern generator is configured to modify the test pattern to emulate one or more user voices prior to entering the test input into the voice portal.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the test pattern generator is configured to modify the test pattern to emulate the influence of one or more communications network qualities prior to entering the test input into the voice portal.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) The system of claim 13, further comprising at least one processor programmed to act as the analysis interface, the test pattern generator, the text-to-speech engine, and the results analyzer.